Rawsonville Stirs to New Boom; Days of Past Industry Recalled

Village Founded in 1823 by Henry Snow; Had Saw Mill

Rawsonville, snuggled in the valley of the Huron River five miles southeast of Ypsilanti, is growing again and has overflowed the rim of the hills to spill across the flat lands toward the big Expressway and in sight of the giant Air Terminal and busy General Motors giant transmission plant.

It was once an industrial center itself and can claim to have been bigger than Ypsilanti in the old days.

The town of Rawsonville was founded in 1823 by Henry H. Snow, who, with his wife, Sally, came up through Van Buren Township by way of the Huron River and settled in section 19, on what has since been known as the Isaac Bumpus farm. He also owned land across the road in Washtenaw county. Snow came from the state of Maine and was the third purchaser of land in the township. He erected a sawmill on the Huron river and others, settling there, named the settlement Snow's Landing.

Amariah Rawson and his family came by ox-team from Walworth county, New York state and, influenced by Snow settled on the banks of the Huron. At that time Ypsilanti, or as it was then called, Woodruff's Grove, had been occupied about two years and Ann Arbor was about one year old. Rawson had explored and abandoned the country around Saline and with a few friends and his own family settled at the bend of the river.

At this time and for nearly a decade thereafter, a line of flatbottomed boats was operated up and down the river between Snow's Landing and Lake Erie. Some of these boats were capable of carrying as high as twenty tons of freight. This attempt to navigate the Huron was brought about on account of the deplorable condition of the roads leading to the markets in Detroit and to the warehouses on Lake Erie.

Amariah Rawson was the leading spirit in the new community. He renamed the village Michigan City, but later, when he became Postmaster and justice of the peace, the name was changed again to Rawsonville, in his honor.

About the time of the Civil War, Rawsonville was at its peak. At that time there was a saw mill on the north bank of the river, "Where it bends like an elbow, holding Rawsonville in its crook"; two cooper shops, a large storv factory, three blacksmiths, a woolen mill, sizeable distillery for rye whiskey, built by Daniel Pierce about 1840, a saw mill constructed by Henry Snow in 1825 and later sold to Able Millington; three saloons on Main street, a grist mill, opened by Samuel Bumpus, a cheese factory, a large tavern standing on the bank of the Huron. Here travelers stopped on their way to further points west, as they ferried up the Huron. Here, too, the stage coaches stopped. The large barns used by the horses are still standing, as well as the Tavern, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bennett. At Civil war times the village had board walks, a postoffice and general store and about 150 houses.

Belleville Postal Headquarters

Postal headquarters were at Belleville being the largest village in the vicinity at the time of the Civil War. Mr. Leonard succeeded his father as mail carrier, and carried mail from Belleville to Ypsilanti on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and from Belleville to Flat Rock on Wednesdays. The round trip to Flat Rock was by the way of Romulus, New Boston, Swan Creek and back by way of Rawsonville, a distance of about 42 miles. Between New Boston and Swan Creek there were five miles of narrow road through a dense forest and yet there were never any holdups. On the Ypsilanti trip, passengers, families of absent soldiers, often rode with Mr. Leonard in his buggy. This buggy was used unless the condition of the roads was so bad that it was necessary to ride horseback. At that time a postman had little responsibility. The mail was carried in a big locked leather bag or pouch. In Belleville at the postoffice all mail for the villages on his route was placed without regard to sorting, in this pouch. When the postman arrived at the postoffice, which as a rule was in a general store, the postmaster unlocked the bag, sorted out the mail for that office, put in any which was to be sent out of the village and relocked the pouch. When the postman returned to Belleville, any mail which went from one village to another on his route was stamped and returned to the bag while all other mail was taken to Ypsilanti from where it was sent. Mr. Leonard often peddled papers on his route. They were bought eagerly as they contained news of the war. The nearest railroad to Rawsonville at that time was from Detroit to Toledo through South Rockwood.

When Amariah Rawson settled in Rawsonville with his family and a few friends after exploring and then abandoning the country around Saline, the settlement which is now Ypsilanti was only two years old. The settlement which is now Ann Arbor, was only one year old. His son Jerome became a carpenter, but spent most of his time on his farm, part of which was in the village. In September 1856, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Rawson became the parents of Addie Rawson, and in an old newspaper account (Ypsilanti Daily Press, April 12, 1930) - she recalled her schooldays very vividly and sighed regretfully when she compared them with the advantages of present day education. There were 125 in attendance at the Rawsonville school when she attended. She never knew what grade she was in, as each new teacher started everyone at the first of the book. Thus she would know the first part almost by heart but never progressed any further unless the same teacher happened to stay two years, which was quite unusual. Maps, globes, library books and a clock were not included in the school and paper was likewise an unaccustomed luxury. Each child had his own slate. Classes, called by the ringing of the school bell, lasted all day. Vacation periods were short and the text books uninteresting. Once a year, the inspector from the Normal College visited the school. Language was grammer, Davies was the most advanced arithmetic used, and algebra was [illegible] of. Spelling was not simp[illegible] nd when there were sev[illegible] ds pronounced the same but spelled differently, it behooved the student to know every definition by rote.

George Alban taught at Rawsonville the last year she attended, and she remembered another old teacher of hers - J. H. Croker. Her mother was also a teacher and often told about receiving a dollar a week for her work. The rest she obtained by boarding around. When she was 16 years old, she joined the Pheonix Lodge Good Templars, and in 1870 the lodge hall, which still stands, across from the church was dedicated. As the liquor question gradually died out the lodge ceased to function and was succeeded by the Sons of Temperance. Addie married Amos Fifield in 1879--the same year that the "new" church was dedicated. This building was sold and used for apple storage in recent years, but now is empty and neglected. She lived in the home just across from the church building, and recalled having seen trains of as many as 40 teams--a solid train--going past the house and up over the hill with logs for the mill. Mr. Fifield was born in 1850 in York Township, and with the exception of a few months spent in New Hampshire and New York, he spent his life in or very near Rawsonville. While enroute with his parents to New Hampshire, he recalled seeing the body of the assassinated president, Abraham Lincoln, as it lay in state in the depot at New York City. Mr. Fifield's father owned several farms near Rawsonville and was also a minister. He attended school at Willow Run and continued to attend there even after moving to the Rawsonville district, he and his brother walking two miles daily rather than leave the companions they had at Willow Run.

Since that time, the Huron River has undergone great changes. At first, it was an ordinary small river, until a dam was built, forming a large pond above the village. After the dam washed away, the river sank to the lowest stage possible and still be called a river. In very recent years, due to the building of a large dam several miles below the village, the river has assumed the proportions of a beautiful lake and a dyke was built to prevent the encroachment of the water to the village homes.

Finds Indian Artifacts

The old Yeckley farm, which was east of the road which is now the Dam Road (or Bridge Road) and south side of Grove Road, and on which the original Yeckley barn is still standing, (though it has undergone many a repair to keep it in condition) was believed to have been an old Indian burial ground. At any rate, it yielded up untold numbers of Indian relics to Adam Lee Yeckley, the schoolteacher of 1900. He had a wonderful collection of them, gathered from that one area, and when he died, still a young man in his early thirties, his collection was far from complete, for he had planned adding to it as years went on.

When the railroads came thru this section, the Michigan Central ran about three miles north of Rawsonville while the Wabash ran about the same distance south of the village. This by-passing was the principal reason for the decline of the village. The life of the settlement depended upon the river, but railroads and later, automobiles, forced it into seclusion. Hampered by inadequate transportation facilities, much of the business previously enjoyed by Rawsonville commenced to go to Belleville, Ypsilanti and other nearby towns. The mills shut down and vacant houses were to be seen on every hand. During the 1880's at least a dozen tottering homes were propped up with timbers taken from the wreckage of those already down. Edwin Barlow owned the last grist-mill, but it went out with the dam during a freshet on June 1, 1901. The Methodist church is closed, the school house remodeled into a dwelling and the Good Templar hall unused.

Like the business and commercial interest of the town the population of Rawsonville has progressively decreased with the passing years. From a reputed population of nearly 400 in the 1840's it had slumped to 160 in 1875. In 1901 it had a population of 75; today only a few scattered houses remain in the original area. Still standing in Rawsonville is the original tavern the H. B. Mosely home, the Cheever house and the home of the Dixons. These buildings and a few loyal, homeloving folk are all that is left of the original settlement on the Huron river.

The following is a business directory of Rawsonville during the last days of its prosperity:

1877; Byron Ayers, carriage and wagon manufacturer; William Besau, cooper; Zina Buck, blacksmith; Isaac Bumpus, cooper; Dennis Cheever, general store; C. J. Cook, flour mill; Peter Dickerson, cheese manufacturer; William Fell, yarn manufacturer; William Mausch, boots and shoes; O. M. Quick, hotel and blacksmith shop; S. H. Sechner, general store and post office; George Shipton, woolen mills; G. P. Woodruff, flouring mill.

1897: Edwin Barlow, grist mill; Jennie Brayton, music teacher; George Brining, blacksmith and wagonmaker; Dennis Cheever, general store; Rev. H. C. Copin, M. E. Pastor; Alice Fell, music teacher; William Fell, proprietor Huron Woolen Mills; J. F. Fosdick, general store and postmaster; E. McCrady, road cart agent; Charles Minard, mason; Henry Minard, mason; Milton Roberts, kettle bail manufacturer; Charles Rhohns, horseshoer; Daniel Stephenson, stock farm, A. L. Yeckley, fertilizers.

1901: Jennie Brayton, music teacher; George Brining, blackshith; Dennis Cheever, general store; Rev. H. C. Colvin, Methodist pastor; George Corkins, carpenter; Grace H. Crittenden. teacher; Amos Fifield, meats; John F. Fosdick, general store and post office; Henry Minard, mason; Lizzie Minard, teacher; Charles Rohn, fruit grower; F. Rowe, constable; William Rowe, constable; Mrs. Charles Voorheis, music teacher; A. L. Yeckley, teacher and fertilizer agent; W. I. Yeckley, justice of the peace.

1930: No business of any kind.

There briefly, is the history of Rawsonville. But it doesn't tell all the story. For that, you listen to the stories of the few descendants of those early settlers, and pore over the old ledgers, journals, records and newspaper articles and papers of that day--the ledger, dated 1844, containing records of Amariah Rawson's store, written in his fine Spencerian scrip--and you chuckle over the prices of the goods therein, comparing them with those of today. And you ask about the first bridge? Why, it was just two huge trees, felled across the river in about the year 1825, with planks laid across--there was the sawmill handy. At that time, the river was, at that point, quite narrow, but very deep and swift. Later, about 1856 there was a wooden bridge with high sides. This bridge was replaced in a few years by a more modern structure and served until April of 1936 when, during the night, it simply collapsed. Early the next morning, two young men on their way to work in Ypsilanti from south of Belleville, drove headlong into the wrecked bridge not suspecting it was down, one of them sustaining a broken arm and the loss of a few teeth in the accident. It was soon after this that the new bridge was constructed. It still stands.

Soon after the village was founded, a man named Soop gave a piece of ground for a cemetery, and with Amariah Rawson and a young fellow named Dalrymple, laid out the plan for the cemetery. Ironically enough, young Dalrymple was one of the first, if not the first, to be buried in "Soop's Cemetery", at the age of 32. The cemetery was known for years as "Soop's Cemetery" and was only changed in recent years to Pleasant View as it overlooks Edison Lake on Denton Road just a short distance off the Expressway. There are buried most of the Rawsons, Dalrymples, Fifields, Bumpus, Barlows, Voorheis, and others mentioned in the above directory, and also contains

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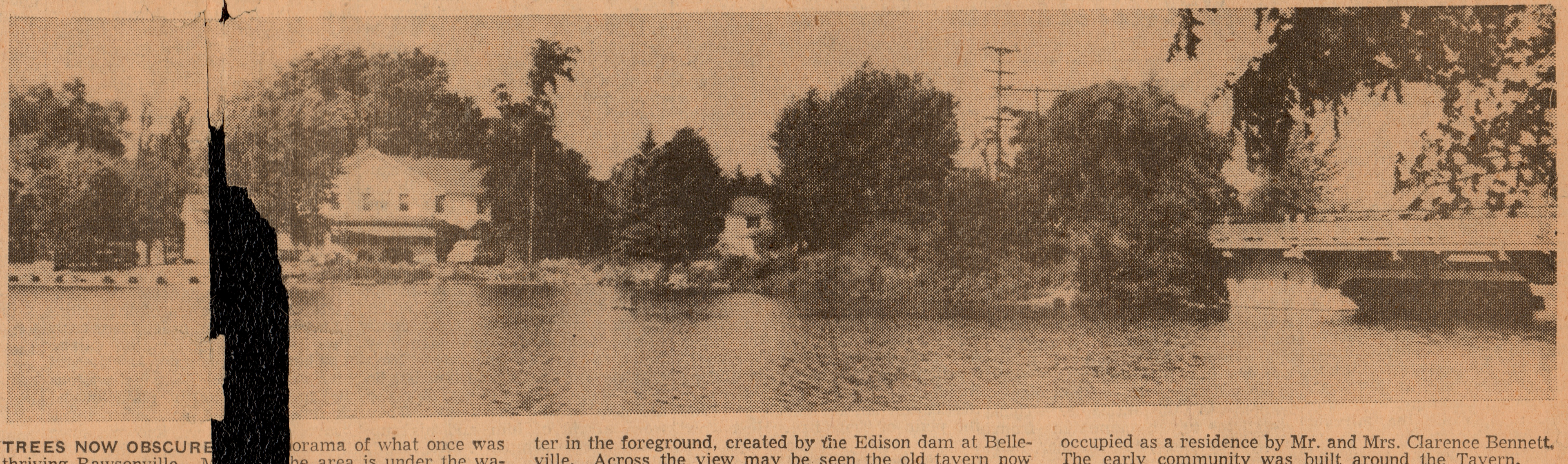
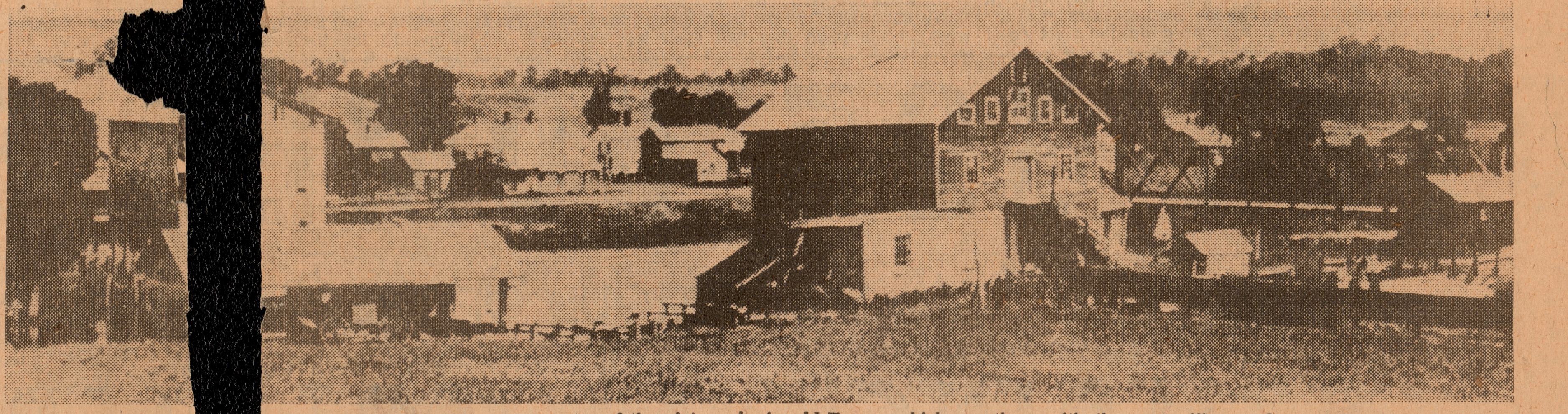
Rawsonville Now



TREES NOW OBSCURE [illegible] orama of what once was thriving Rawsonville. M[illegible] he area is under the water in the foreground, created by the Edison dam at Belleville. Across the view may be seen the old tavern now occupied as a residence by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bennett. The early community was built around the Tavern.

Rawsonville Then



THIS EARLY PICTURE [illegible] village of Rawsonville, taken over sixty years a[illegible]s the woolen mill at the extreme right, near th[illegible] The grist mill, at the left, is built over the r[illegible]n the foreground is the long shed used by the s[illegible]es. Across the river, in the center of the picture, is the old Tavern which was the principal point of landing for the many travelers who came to this county by boat. At the right of the Tavern, is the old H. B. Mosely home. Like the tavern this house has been remodeled and is still in use. The general store, with the post office, and a woodworking shop stand between the home and the Huron. Showing faintly behind the grist mill is the white Methodist Church with the Good Templar Hall located directly across the road. These two buildings were the center of social life.

Quiet Rawsonville Valley Appeals to Three Sisters

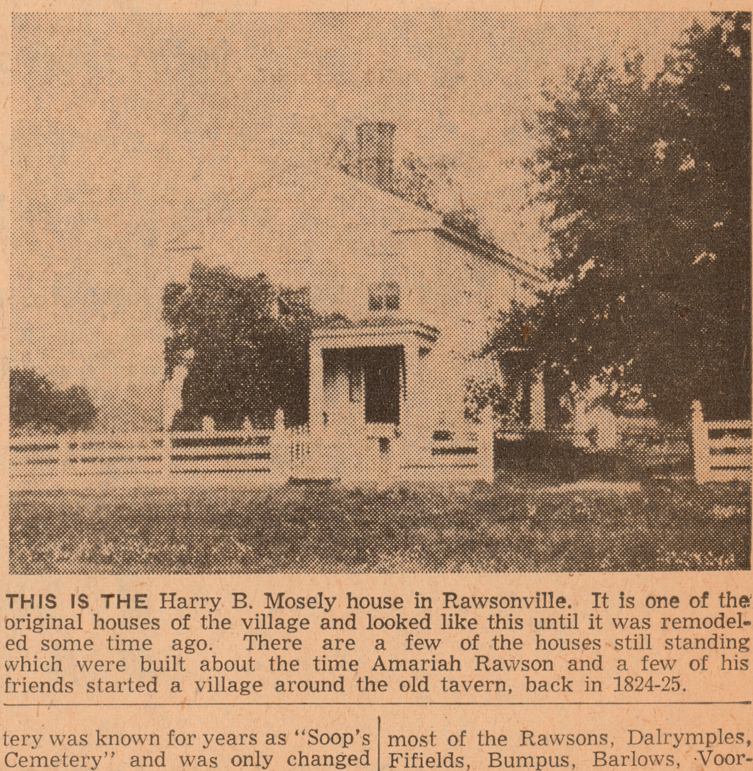
The present owners of the old Rawsonville Tavern, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bennett are considered old settlers in the village of Rawsonville. Mrs. Bennett, together with her two sisters, Mrs. Beatrice Mosely and Mrs. Edna Maris, both retired school teachers, still live in the quiet hills, near the Huron river, where life is peaceful, even if the jet planes often fly low.

Their father, Edwin Barlow, was born October 22, 1849, near Belleville and educated in a "select" (not public) school. Mrs. Hattie Kelsey Crittenden, a Quakeress, was an early teacher. The family moved into Rawsonville and he attended the public school there. Enrollment was about 150. Skating on the river was a winter pleasure. His skates were made like the Indians, of hard wood cut in wedge shape. There were also writing and singing schools in those days. The late Professor Frederick H. Pease often conducted the song fests. Taffy pulling and dancing in the Good Templar Hall were also enjoyed. Sunday School was conducted by William Clark, owner of the mill. Work in those days for a young man consisted of farming, or he could earn $2.00 a day pulling beans, husking corn or spinning in the woolen mills.

Edwin Barlow was, at one [illegible] Postmaster in the general st[illegible] and owner of the grist mill. His father operated the general store too and was also Postmaster and Justice of the Peace.

His home, remodeled, still stands and is now occupied by two of his daughters.

MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE BENNETT'S home in Rawsonville, is the old, original Tavern. It has been restored, but it still stands at the landing where travelers coming up the broad Huron river would embark. The main room was used as a gathering place for the pioneers and the bar, which once graced the room is now stored. It is a huge thing, made of black walnut. The room now is like a museum, with many fine pieces of antique furniture and dishes. In fact, the whole house is charming with much authentic furniture and furnishings. The second floor was used for a ball room and several years ago, Henry Ford, who believed in reviving the customs of an earlier era, restored this room and arranged to have the young people of the community taught the square dancing that he loved. This is an old print made before the tavern was restored.



THIS IS THE Harry B. Mosely house in Rawsonville. It is one of the original houses of the village and looked like this until it was remodeled some time ago. There are a few of the houses still standing which were built about the time Amariah Rawson and a few of his friends started a village around the old tavern, back in 1824-25.

Courageous Battle For Freedom Brings Name For Ypsilanti

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(Continued from Page 16)

y the flames ran up the tarry ging while the wind, blowing oss the Turkish ship communi- ed the fire to every part of her. sails and cordage were all aze, her guns began to go off. complement of twelve hundred n trampled over one another in ing to escape. The Captain sha and some officers succeed- in getting a boat lowered. By ting off the hands of the swim- rs who clung to her he got a lit- way from the ship, when the zing mainmast came hissing wn upon him, crushing him to ath and every soul in his boat. us perished Captain Pasha, the of Scio, while the intrepid naris, with his sturdy oarsmen, lled rapidly down the strait and caped upon the Greek ship wait- for them outside.

onfounded by this daring attack fleet put out to sea in great order. After some time they me to anchor off the island of Tenedos. While here they were attacked at night a second time by Kanaris in another fireship. He picked out the largest vessel in the fleet, the one occupied by the new commander; he grappled her upon the windward side and, firing the train, again escaped with his crew. The Turkish ship was entirely destroyed with almost all her men. She drifted upon other ships and burned them also. The fleet, without orders and in the greatest confusion put to sea. The ships seemed without guidance. Tempestuous weather did them great damage and this, with the sailors' fear of fiery Kanaris drove them quickly home to Constantinople. Thus closed the naval campaign from which Mahmoud, the Butcher, had hoped for great results.

Armies Routed

Similar defeat awaited the two great armies which Mahmoud sent against the south country.

One came down the west coast and tried to get into the peninsula by way of the Messoloughi, but the brave and daring Marco Bozzaris kept harrassing the invaders to such an extent that they accomplished very little of their object.

The other army came down the east coast, determined to sweep all before them, to enter the peninsula by the Isthmus of Corinth, which Ypsilanti had taken possession of, and, retaking their old capital, Tripolitza, to re-establish Turkish supremacy in the whole land. So they came on from the Turkish border, burning towns and killing the inhabitants, leaving a wide track of fire and blood behind them.

It was then that Ypsilanti achieved the success that gave him the greatest fame; it was then that he performed the feat that made him the most famous man of the time; that made his name familiar to the distant settlers of Woodruff's Grove, Washtenaw county, and decided them to name the new village that they founded higher up the river, Ypsilanti. The alarm spread through the peninsula, "The Turks are upon us! To arms! To arms!" Ypsilanti gathered his men upon the plain of Argos through which the Turks had to march to reach the plain of Tripolitza. He burned or carried off all the crops and everything that could have been of use to the enemy. All told, he had an army of three thousand, five hundred men; the Turkish general, Drami Pasha, commanded thirty thousand. There was a fortress in the plain that had been built by the Venetians in the distant days of their possession. With three hundred men Ypsilanti took possession of it, while his other troops retreated to the hills to await events. Next day the Turkish force marched out upon the plain. The Pasha saw the little fort upon the hill and sent up a messenger, demanding its surrender upon pain of being attacked by the whole army. Ypsilanti had provisions for only three days but he put a bold face to the matter. He took empty baskets and barrels and filled them up with dirt, spreading grain and other food on the top, so that it appeared that there was a great supply of provisions there, enough to keep his men for many months. He set up the old and useless cannon of the fortress so that it appeared a formidable place; he hung up under clothes of his men while they themselves were all in plain sight, so that one would think a large array of men were sleeping in the barracks in addition to the ones awake outside. Then he let the messengers of the Pasha come in and laughed at them when they proposed that he surrender. Next day the Turks attacked him but he drove them back; the next day and the next he did the same. They were afraid of him and his supposed large company. At length his water supply gave out and his provisions failed. At night, he stole down with his little band and creeping among the vines, fired several volleys into the enemy and escaped to the hills. Then every night, with his audacious mountaineers, the chief dropped down upon the Turks and worried them exceedingly. The enemy could not determine how great a force they had to fight against; they could not use their cavalry in the night; they seemed dazed and helpless in the darkness and confusion. In this state Ypsilanti finally drove them to take refuge in the valley of Argos, and almost immediately afterwards drove them out and himself took possession of this important position. Now, the Turks began to feel in the want of food. The crops had been all taken from the plain. The very size of the army was against it; thirty thousand men and all their horses t[illegible]be fed each day made a serious affair. The water, too, was poor, and many men became incapa[illegible]ed for active work by diarrhoe[illegible] allied distresses.

Pasha [illegible] desperate condition of [illegible] and resolved to retreat [illegible]th and make a stand th[illegible] he could become in bette[illegible]stances to complete th[illegible]ation of the peninsula. H[illegible]e order to retreat. From t[illegible]sition in the village Ypsilan[illegible] his men saw horses and ca[illegible] baggage wagons and me[illegible]ing the plain toward the pas[illegible]e north. Sending a brave [illegible]ler known since that da[illegible]ketas, "the Turk eater," [illegible] possession of the rocks [illegible]e pass, Ypsilanti, with his [illegible]ll upon the retreating arm[illegible] great fury. The Turks [illegible] northward through the nar[illegible] which rise the roc[illegible]s, steep as the sides of a wall. All was silent as if a peaceful Sabbath day were blessing the beautiful scene. When the pass was filled with Turkish men, suddenly, at a given signal, from every rock and tree on each side of the pass, sprang out a hardy Greek. They rained a fiery storm of lead upon the crowded mass below: they rolled huge boulders down the slopes. The rocks went crashing down upon the struggling victims. Not a shot was lost, not a stone fell down but what a dozen men were crushed beneath it. All this time the Turks, pressed from the rear by Ypsilanti kept crowding madly into the pass already choked with men and beasts of burden. Hundreds were trampled to death by their friends. A stream that ran through the defile was packed so full of bodies that the water overflowed the banks and made the passage slippery and difficult. The soldiers threw away their arms and thought of nothing but escape; they threw away the jewels and gold they had captured in the devastated towns of northern Greece; they threw away their jackets and shoes, their trousers, and stripped entirely naked, clambered over corpses, wagons and rubbish, in efforts to escape. The few that did come out reached the fortress of Corinth, which, however, they soon deserted. In straggling bands they sought such places as the Greeks cared not to attack and so escaped.

Army Annihilated

Thus did Ypsilanti annihilate the proud army of the Sultan which had promised such great things. The tents, the cannon, the baggage, and the spoil of the Turks fell into the chieftain's hands. With strict fidelity, as always, he delivered them to his government for use in carrying on the war. This was the famous battle of the field of Argos that made the name of our town, through her namesake Demetrius Ypsilanti, famous all through the world.

It is not necessary to detail further the Grecian struggle. Such events as this, such exploits as those of Ypsilanti, Kanaris, and Bozzaris, served at length to show the world that this was no petty disturbance in the empire of the Sultan, but the determined movement of a Christian people to be free. After seven years of weary conflict, when the fine land of Greece had almost worn herself away by constant fighting, England, France, and Russia compelled the Turk to withdraw his bloody hand forever. Ypsilanti lived to see his country acknowledged by the world to be a free and independent nation. As he had served her on the field of battle so did he serve her in the time of peace, sincerely, honestly, and disinterestedly. He became one of her executive commission, the highest post in the gift of his countrymen, and he retained that office until he died. This was in 1832, he being only thirty-nine years of age.

I don't suppose he ever knew that, in this far off wilderness, a little town assumed his name and grew to be a staid old place inhabited chiefly by professors and students who rarely give his name a thought. When they do it is to put him down as an Indian [illegible] who merely had a wigwam [illegible] the Huron's banks. If I were rich, I would have his statue set in a public place in the town that was named for him, and on the pedestal I would print:

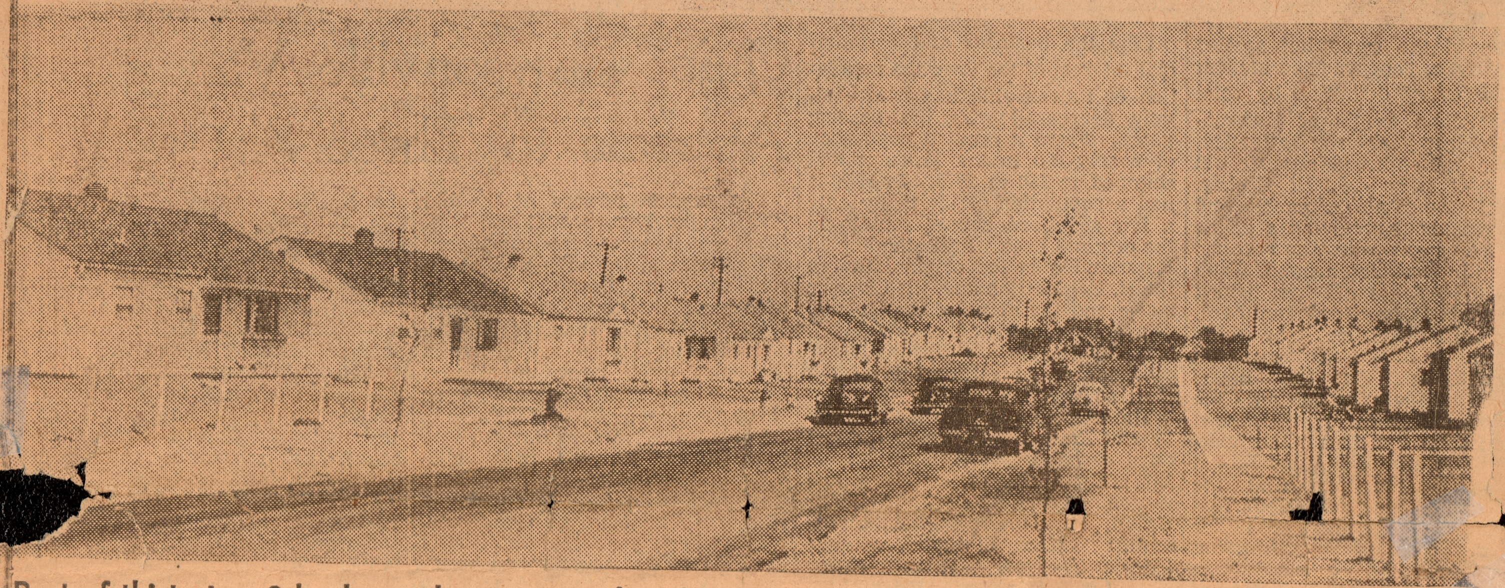
DEMETRIUS YPSILANTI.
Born in Constantinople, 1793;
Died in Greece, 1832.
He was small of stature,
plain of feature, and
harsh of voice.
Nature lavished not upon him graces of body or of mind. But he was of an honest heart, a strong will, and an ardent patriotism; who commanded the Greeks in the Morea; who brought about their declaration of independence; who smote the tyrant Turk at Argos; who served his country in peace and war; who died while one of her supreme council.
You, who look upon him, be mindful of your duty to your country.

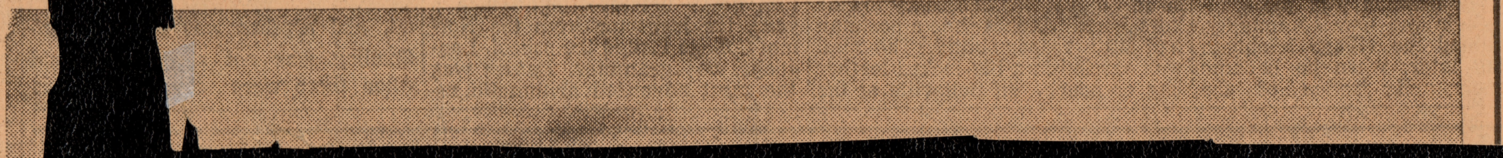
(For the material of these papers on Ypsilanti, I am indebted mostly to The Greek Revolution: Samuel G. Howe, New York, 1828; to Gordon's two volume account of the revolution, and to the Encyclopedia Britannica.)

OVER 325 HOMES SINCE 1948

WE'RE PROUD OF THE PA WE'RE PLAYING

BUILDING A GRE TER YPSILANTI





Part of thirty-two 3 bedroom homes completed on Kennedy Avenue just South of Ecorse Road.

Frank O. Jackson

Here you see a portion of our developm
south of Eco

We point with pride to the fact that over 325 homes, now a part of greater Ypsila ed and sold by this firm . . . in the short span of seven years. Both conventional-b National pre-fabricated homes comprise this contribution of ours to the reside community. Our business is to provide homes for more and more families in this a lie ahead. Whether we're building them or acting as sales agents for other build who wish to sell . . . you can rest assured that we shall aggressively promote continu lanti with all of the facilities at our command.

JACKSON

HOME BUILDERS—REALTORS—Fir
CORNER WEST MICHIGAN AND HAMILTON ST.

Village Founded in 1823 by Henry Snow; Had Saw Mill

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the remains of a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Old timers, with wry humor, would refer to someone deceased as being "in the Soop".

Indians About

Jerome Rawson, who was born in 1825, was just a child when he came to Rawsonville with his family. At the time, there were still plenty of Indians around and they would come and ask for something to eat. Jerome would hide under the dust ruffle of the bed, terrified, until they went away. Addie Rawson, daughter of Jerome, was born in Rawsonville in 1856, and at that time, a few years before the Civil War, old accounts tell that there was a population of between 800 and 1,000 — though these accounts varied, some reporting as low as 400 at its peak, some nearly 1,000. However, there were 150 houses or more, besides the stores, mills and other public buildings. Most of the buildings in the early days were constructed of logs as was the first schoolhouse, which was replaced by a fine brick building erected about 1860. It is thought the same man who built it, built the school at Willow Run. The original log schoolhouse became a blacksmith shop which had a skylight in the roof. School was kept continuously in this district except for a period of two or three years when the number of children was so small it was decided to let them all attend Willow Run. Attendance rose and fell with the prosperity and decline of the village, of course. The old-timers were proud of that fine new brick schoolhouse, with the fence all around, and the bell cupola over the door. It still stands at the foot of Snow Street hill, though it was replaced many years ago by the modern structure of tan brick at the top of Snow Hill. In the early 60's there were between 85 and 90 children attending school, and according to Henry Leonard, who lived for 70 years in or near Rawsonville, and attended school at that period, whipping was the common form of discipline, and a switching was given for the slightest of reasons. The most common form of whip was one which was made from willows which grew along the river bank.

The long switch was cut from the tree, the bark removed and the switch put on the stove until it became strong and tough. It was several feet long and could be wrapped like a buggy whip around the hands of the teacher and many students went home with their ankles smarting from a thorough switching.

Feruling Used

Another favored method of punishment was "feruling". At one time, about 35 of the boys who were skating on the river, failed to come to the school for an hour or so after the session had started. When they finally arrived, the teacher gave each the choice of a feruling or staying in the building during the noon hour and recess periods. To a boy, they decided to take the "feruling" and the 35, standing along the wall in accordance with their height, and the palms of their hands smartly hit with a heavy ruler, or ferule. Mr. Leonard, who died in the early 1930's said "he was not a model boy, however he never had much trouble with the teachers."

Recalls Mill

Frank J. Rust was born in Rawsonville in 1859, and lived there until August 1865, and in an old letter to a newspaper, he recalled the turning mill of Page and Burt, and how they would make quantities of bowls that Mr. Page would load on his wagon and exchange for money or any kind of provisions he could use in his family. Often he would come back from these trading journeys with a bigger load than he took away. Mr. Rust's mother had one of the large wooden boxes that would hold 17 pounds of sugar, and she had used it for over 50 years. It was prized highly not only as a keepsake, but as a relic. Mr. Rust recalled several other old-timers who lived in Rawsonville at that time--Jerry Hewitt, Henry Austin, who lived back of the schoolhouse; Joe Cutler, Aaron Smith and blind Mr. Bess who lived on the north side of the village. About that time, Mr. Rust recalled, Byron Ayres, who was township treasurer, was robbed of $4,000 or $5,000.

The dreams of those old days built around railroads-on-paper weren't the only dreams to go awry in that same area. When the Detroit Edison Co. built the Belleville dam, creating a five-mile lake at the upper end of which was Rawsonville; and the Ford Motor Company announced plans to construct a dam just above Rawsonville, the land boom was born. Subdivisions were laid out, and sidewalks constructed for homesites. Some of the owners of the land at that time were holding out for $3,000 an acre for the parcels of land along the river. A few new families moved into the community but nothing much came of those dreams, and for years afterward, children picking wild berries and flowers in the woods along what was Wiard Road, and is now part of the Expressway, walked along fine sidewalks, dated —fatefully—1929! It took a war —World War II to make Rawsonville live again.

Helping Hand Society

But no account of old Rawsonville would be complete without a story of the Helping Hand Society. It was in November, 1889 that the ladies met in the M. E. Church for the purpose of organizing a Ladies Helping Hand Society. Election of officers was held, and Mrs. Charles Crittenden became first president; Mrs. M. E. Sherman, recording secretary Mrs. Linda Owen, treasurer, and Mrs. Addie Fifield, assistant secretary. Other members enrolled — charter members in an organization that is still going strong in this, its 65th year, were: Mrs. Mattie Fell, Mrs. Dennis Cheever, Mrs. Mary Roberts, Mrs. Mattie Roberts, Mrs. Charles Dennis, Mrs. Frankie Eaton, Mrs. Jennie Hubbell, Mrs. E. R. Rawson and Mrs. Annie Corkins. Their resolutions: that they meet once a month—dues at regular meetings were 10c — that they have special meetings to do work to raise money the funds to be used for church purposes. Dinners at the all day work sessions were to consist of one kind of meat; bread and butter, potatoes, tea, apple pie, one kind of pickles, one kind of vegetables—and cheese. Always cheese for the ladies believed in patronizing their cheese and butter association. They were to prepare their own supper— and the bill of fare for teas was: bread and butter, pickles, cold meat, cheese or jelly, one cake, one sauce, and— of course—tea.

Their meetings were held much oftener than once a month, in order to raise the money they pledged. They undertook to pay the pastor's salary, or a goodly part of it, which was around $50 for the year. Their first project after organizing was an oyster supper "for the benefit of the minister"-- and their purchases for it read: "bought of Harris Bros. 47 lbs. of crackers at 6½c -- $3.06; 5 gallons oysters--$6.00; and then very thriftily they also purchased 20 cans of oysters for $4.00 this was in case they had fewer at the supper than they hoped for, the canned oysters could be returned for refund. As it subsequently turned out, they did return a few cans later. After expenses, that first supper netted the ladies $15.76.

They never missed an opportunity to make a little money for their very worthwhile projects - nearly every meeting had small money-raising programs which netted them a dollar or two and helped to swell the treasury. There were "guessing tables"--this being an article, brought by a member and placed on a table, completely covered, for which the other members would pay a sum—usually 5c —to guess what the article was. On one such occasion, the article was a head rest, won by Mrs. Lina Owen, which earned the society $1.40; another time a bread-and-milk set. Guessing the number of beans in a jar was another method, the lady coming closest to the number of beans taking them home as her prize. There were "shadow socials" – when several people walked across the curtained part of the hall, with a strong light silhouetting them against the curtain so that the audience in the darkened part of the hall would guess their identities. Another version of that was the 1890-type "cheese cake" show—where the ladies would line up behind a curtain, with only their feet and a few inches of ankles showing--the audience to guess by their feet, who the owners were. The ladies "tied-off" a comfortable, which they auctioned; and held "sugar socials"-- maple sugar being the tidbit of the occasion; a "cap social' — with prizes for the nicest cap, and the most comic--either dust caps, or night caps, which in those days were still being worn; (remember then the ladies had long tresses that they always covered with caps when cleaning the house, to keep the dust out--because in those days, shampooing was no simple chore — and it wasn't unusual to see ladies in their yards, drying their waist-long thick hair in the sun.)

Nearly every meeting a few more members were added to the roster, and they were, in order of their joining: Mrs. David Campbell, the Misses Janet and Alvira Waterbury, and Mrs. Ruthruff-- November 21, 1889. Mrs. Dallas Pierce, and Mrs. E. Brown, December 19, 1889. Mrs. Brock, Jan. 16, 1890. Mrs. Alonzo Ford, on Feb. 13--Eva Doyle, Mrs. J. W. Tuttle, Mrs. Charles Minard, Mrs. William Anderson, Mrs. Blanche Freeman, Mrs. M. Crane, Mrs William Row - on March 13. It was also on that day that the ladies decided to buy the Good Templars Hall--and chose their motto, suggested by Jennie Hubbell--"United We Stand, Divided We Fall". On April 10, Mrs. J. W. Tuttle joined, and Mrs. H. P. Laflin; and the meetings were changed from all day affairs, to afternoon meetings, except for special work meetings. May 8, five more joined: Mrs. Anna Van Tassel, Miss Agnes Owen, Mrs. Eliza Fell, Mrs. P. M. Rogers, and Miss Emma Tuttle. There were 14 visitors and 30 members at the meeting that day, and subsequent meetings often had more visitors than members present. On one particular day the record read: "members present, 25, visitors 34", so it can easily be understood why the ladies needed the hall for their meetings when they were so well attended. In many instances, many of the visitors were the men ---the preacher, of course, who was always an honorary member and opened their meetings with a prayer--but many of the men attended to report on work they had done for the Society, or to turn in bills for goods purchased by the Society --in one instance, Mr. Rawson turned in a bill, in Sept. 1891, "for repairing seats in the hall--50c..... It was during the year 1890 that a literary committee was chosen to supply something at each meeting "for the good of the order"--this being choice readings, recitations songs, and at one meeting the record stated "recitation by little Susan Minard", which indicated that children not only attended the meetings but took part in the entertainment portion. At another meeting "Charlie Ruthruff entertained us by whistling a piece" — and since there were 26 members and 59 visitors that day, young Charlie's efforts were not wasted on thin air. The men often took part, too, giving speeches, or just leading a discussion, which led the ladies to decide that at each meeting, each lady would be called upon in alphabetical order, to discuss a topic agreed upon ahead of time. When this was decided, their first topic for discussion was--card playing!!!

It was also on May 8, 1890, that a motion was made that the Society tender a vote of thanks to Lawyer Dan Griffin for offering to handle the business of purchasing the hall--free gratis. (Lawyer Griffin lived in Ypsilanti in the beautiful stone residence still standing on the west side of South Huron Street).

Purchase Hall

On June 25, final transactions were made and the Hall became the property of the Society. By the end of 1890, these members had been added: Mrs. J. Stockdale, Mrs. Mary Harris, Mrs. Ella Covert, Mrs. George Wiard, Mrs. F. J. Freeman, Mrs. Charles Fletcher, Mrs. Eva Owen, Mrs. Minnie Roberts, Miss Laurie McGraw, Mrs. Elsie Bovie and Mrs. W. W. Voorheis. Much work had been accomplished—much, or perhaps all of Rev. Ebling's salary had been paid by the Society; quilts made for the minister's family, one having been presented to them at the New Year's party at the hall.

During the year 1891, more members came into this busy group: Mrs. Burke Spencer, Mrs. Barriger, and Mrs. R. R. Rhone. In 1892: Mrs. William Day, Mrs. Stumpheuseh, Mrs. William Coats, Mrs. Suggett, Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Horn and Mrs. Brayton. New chimneys and burners for the lamps at the church had been purchased and installed; and the ladies undertook the project of financing building of the shed beside the church where the horses-and-rigs were sheltered while the owners attended services. The Misses Waterbury must have had beautiful spacious grounds, for the lawn socials were held no where else in those days, tho' it was noted "lawn social will be held at the hall, if the Misses Waterbury do not consent" —however, they were never held elsewhere, so doubtless the Misses Waterbury always offered the use of their grounds.

Add Kitchen

At the end of the year 1892, the ladies voted to add a kitchen to the hall, and so a new goal was set for their treasury. Before work could be started however, they voted to "borrow" from the kitchen fund for repairs to the hall. New names added in 1893 were: Mrs. Barnard; Mrs. William Beach; Mrs. Sherwood; Mrs. Angeline Jackson and Mrs. Prince.

In 1894: Mrs. Jennie Brayton, Mrs. Mina Day and Mrs. Ermina Rust (Mrs. J. L.) -- (Mrs. Rust attended regularly until the last two or three years, and you may recall reading of her passing this spring (1954) really an "old timer".

In their fourth annual report, dated Dec. 21, 1893, the following items were recorded: 52 names enrolled on the book; attendance for the past year not counting New Year's dinner—456; highest attendance 57—lowest, 11; — average attendance 32% of membership —nine ladies have not attended any of the last twelve meetings— Mrs. Rawson being the only member who has attended all the meetings. There were 14 regular meetings held at the Hall and eight meetings held at private houses. (At one meeting it was recorded "motion made and supported that we meet at the Hall the next time, unless we have an invitation to go somewhere else")

Society Became Famous

The Society really became famous, folks visiting from nearby towns - Ypsilanti, Belleville, Willis, Romulus and so on. In the fall of 1892, the ladies met with the Willis Ladies' Society in Willis and were entertained by them, returning the favor some time later by entertaining them at the home of Mrs. Doyle. Besides their own community projects, the Society contributed to outside affairs, in one instance raising $5.50 toward the fund for the Soldiers' Monument in Ypsilanti, in 1893. In 1894, they held a 10c social for the benefit of the Dolbee family who were burned out.

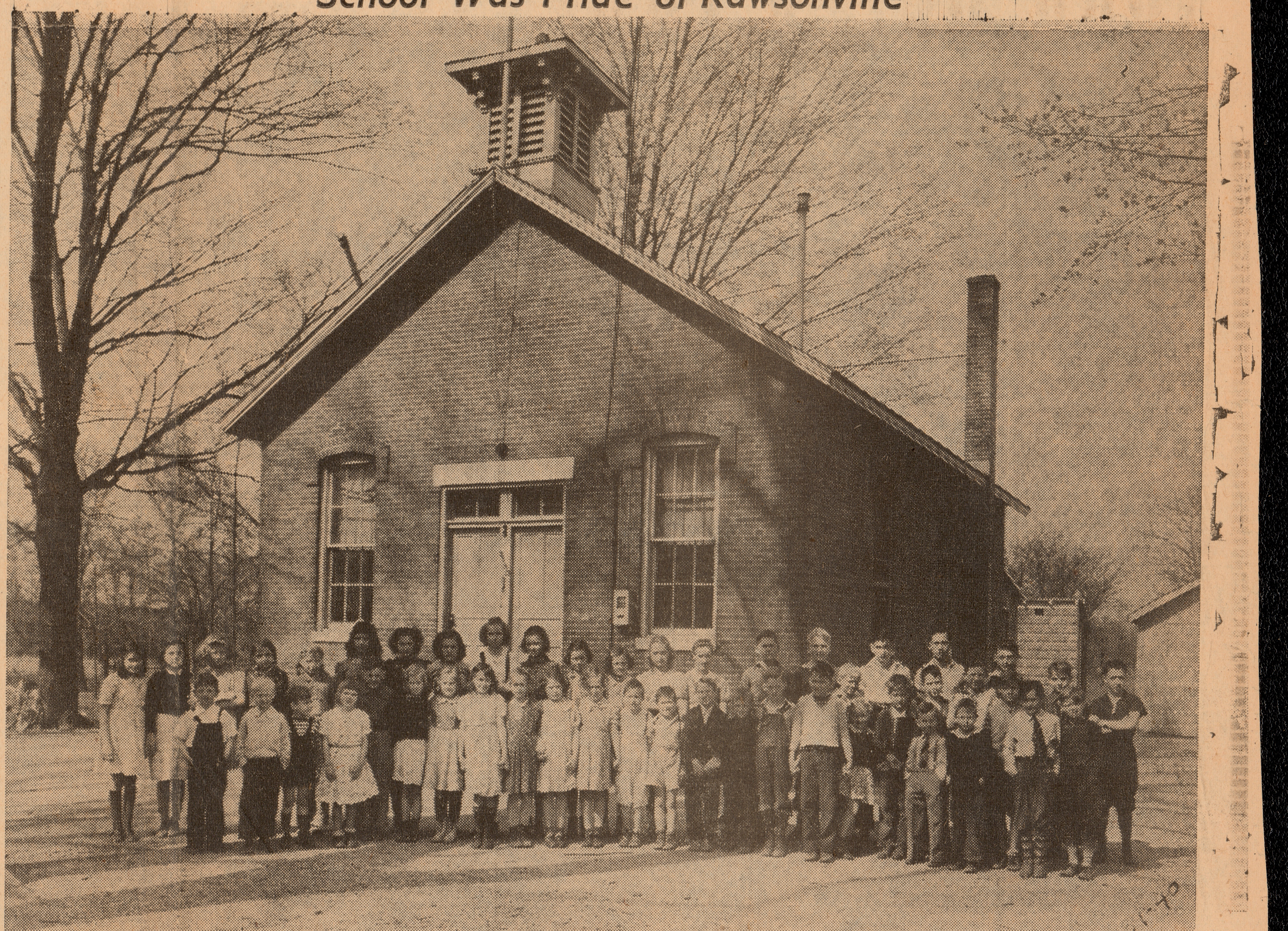
It was also in the annual report of 1893 that the financial report read: total receipts for the year-- $196.43---Paid out during the year minister's salary — $61.35; sheds, including painting -- $23.72; Outside work on Hall including shingles, tin etc. — $45.99; Inside work, painting, papering, plastering, cleaning stove, new window panes and other repairs -- $34.27; Incidentals -- $10.66 total paid out -- $175.99.

Minutes Missing

Through the years, records have

(Continued on Page Twenty-Two)

School Was Pride of Rawsonville

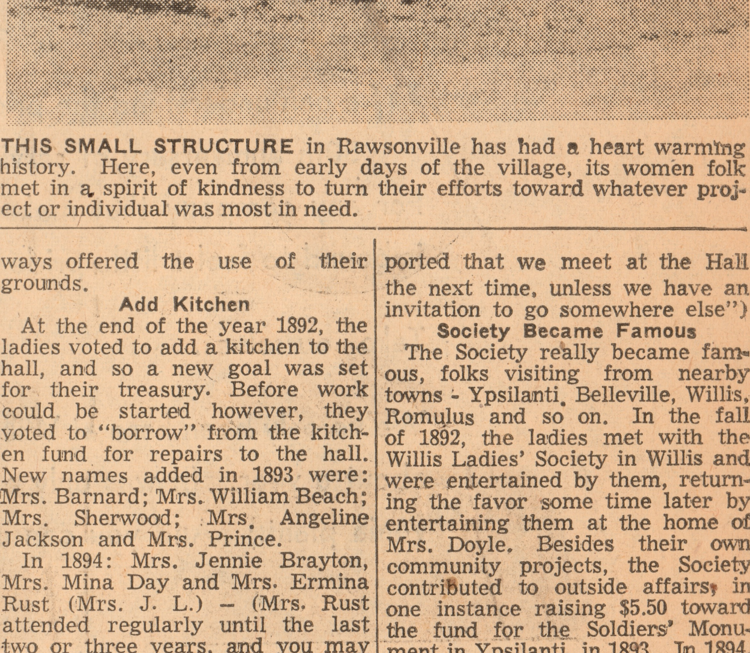


THIS WAS THE LAST WORD in fine red brick school houses when it was built in Rawsonville about 1880. It still stands sturdily at the foot of the hill where it has been converted to living quarters after having served generations of young Rawsonville residents both as a day and Sunday school. This view shows it in 1930-40 before it was supplanted by the fine new school at the top of the hill which is already filled beyond its normal capacity. It has recently been annexed by Belleville.

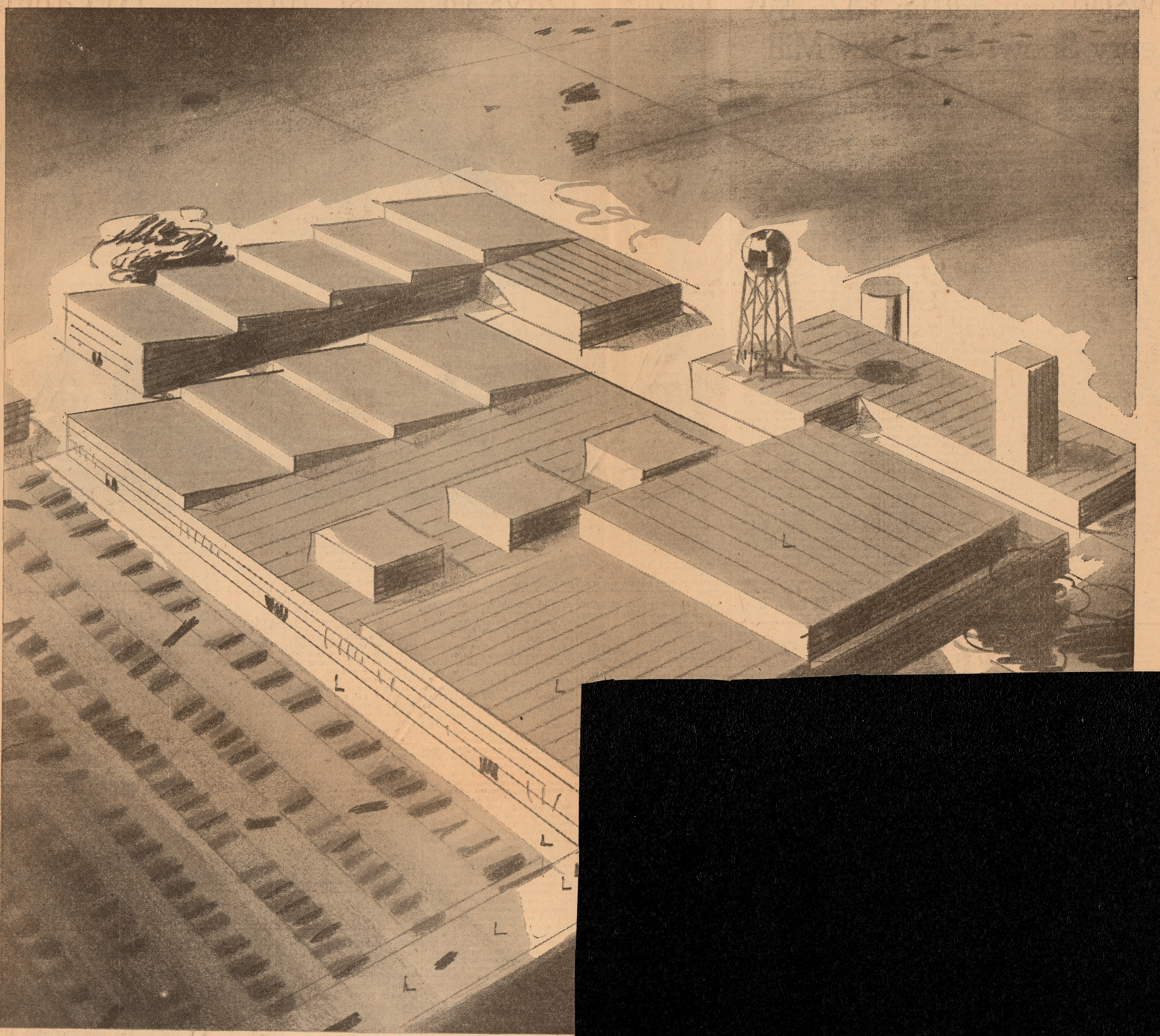
New, Modern School

BUILT ON LOW modernistic lines, the Rawsonville school on the brow of the hill overlooking the original village, has already been found inadequate for the booming population. It is surrounded by a large subdivision and is not far from the big expressway to Detroit.

Neighborliness Here



THIS SMALL STRUCTURE in Rawsonville has had a heart warming history. Here, even from early days of the village, its women folk met in a spirit of kindness to turn their efforts toward whatever project or individual was most in need.



We're sure glad

We can understand the pride the Ypsilanti Daily Press must have in its 50th anniversary of service to this community.

For any company that makes itself a real part of the progress of Ypsilanti is bound to feel a little pride as well as a lot of deep-down satisfaction.

Take ourselves.

We've only been here at Willow Run turning out Hydra-Matic transmissions about a year. (It was only a year ago last August that fire swept our Livonia plant.) And you can imagine what a busy year it's been—making

GENERAL MOTORS

Village Founded in 1823 by Henry Snow; Had Saw Mill

* * *

(Continued From Page Twenty)

been laid away, probabiy in some forgotton trunk in an attic, so that no one seems to recollect exactly where the minutes from 1894 to 1920 are. However, on Roll Call for 1920, the following names appear: Mina Anderson, Ella Anderson, Elsie Bovie, Mrs. D. Campbell, Mrs. Cheever, Agnes Corkins, Mollie Corkins; Mrs. Crittenden, Mrs. Fifield, Eva Fletcher; Mildred Gotts, Georgia Hunt; Mrs. Horn; Jennie Laflin; Cora McCartney; Mrs. C. W. Minard; Mary Minard; Jennie Marvin; Mina Mulreed; Edna Owen; Eva Owen; Linda Owen; Mary Renton; Lina Rogers; Mrs. W. Rowe; Mrs. Jennie Rowe; Ermina Rust; Louise Schettenhelm; Rev. and Mrs. Smith; Maude Seamans; Lelia Shearman; Rachel Tuttle; Anna Thumm; Lillian Waltz and Caroline Fletcher.

As you can see, in many cases no first names, no pre-fix of Miss or Mrs. so well-known to each other were they, that they weren't needed.

Added to the roster through the years were: Mrs. Lillian Sherman; Carrie (Mrs. George) Corkins; Gertrude Gotts; Mrs. Melotte; (1922) Mrs. Baker and Mrs. R. Tuttle (1924) - (in December, 1923, President Mrs. Eva Owen passed away;) -- Mrs. Bertha Vorce; Mrs. McCormick; Mrs. Armstrong; in 1925 three new members joined in June: Mrs. Eugene Young; Ethel Young and Mrs. Carrie Lau.

By December 1930, additional names were Sudie Wiard (daughter of Mrs. Cheever)-Florence Warner; Fannie Campbell; Jennie Holmes; Mrs. Alex Sangster; Mrs. B. F. Sheppard; Evelene Sangster; Mrs. Henry Owen.

Roll call for 1931 had a few new names: Mrs. Case; Mrs. J. Marks; Mrs. Louise Jewell. - Rev. and Mrs. Richards.

By 1935 these were included: Lura Britton, Pearl Dixon; Lucy Allen; In 1936, these members passed away: Mrs. Mary Horn, Mrs. Josie Marks; Mrs. Sudie Wiard; and Mrs. Crittenden.

Roll call for 1940 had these new names: Cornelia Grabow; Mrs. Elliott; Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Purcell. -- Rev. and Mrs. Eddy.

In 1942: Frances Yeckley; Susan Minard; Mrs. Neubert and Mrs. Mollison. - Rev. and Mrs. Eddy.

Modern Rawsonville Church

THIS LITTLE CHURCH in Rawsonville, with its simple but pleasing architecture, was erected in 1945 and serves the needs of the area to capacity.

Only a great deal of research into fine, hand-written secretary's minutes would show how many members had passed away, or moved to some other community, or perhaps dropped out for another reason. But present roll call for 1954 lists the following members: Mrs. Lucy Allen, Agnes (Mrs. Wilmer) Corkins, Carrie (Mrs. George) Corkins, Mrs. Mary Elliott, Mrs. Louise (Clarence) Jewell, Mrs. Evelene Sangster Lovell, Cora (Mrs. L. G. "Mac) McCartney, Lina (Mrs. Nelson) Rogers, Mrs. Alex Sangster, Bertha (Mrs. Fred) Vorce, Susan Minard, the same "little Susan Minard who gave a recitation"--- Sarah (Mrs John) Shyne, Jean (Mrs. Frank) Mill, Mrs. Sarah Shippy, Pearl (Mrs. John) Dixon, Pauline (Mrs. Ben) Owen, Anna (Mrs. Will) Ammerman, Mrs. Veda Brown, Mrs. Nina Horn.

Revives Schoolhouse

In 1931, Mr. Henry Ford received the little red schoolhouse at Willow Run. The building, situated four miles southwest of Ypsilanti on the Wayne-Washtenaw County line road had been closed since the consolidation of rural districts in 1927 to form the Van Buren Consolidated School at Belleville after having it remodelled, Mr. Ford, himself attended its re-opening on September 9, 1931. Supt. John Myron of the Van Buren Consolidated School opened the fall term at 9 o'clock, and turned the program over to Supt. Frank Cody of the Detroit Schools who acted as master of ceremonies. Mr. Cody recalled in his opening remarks, the time 43 years before when he walked four miles each way every day from Belleville to preside as teacher of this school.

But Willow Run wasn't alone in the attention given by Mr. Ford for he became interested in the Rawsonville community about that time, also, and by 1935 the children of Rawsonville had a share in the school gardens laid out across from the Willow Run School, where they worked once or twice a week, picked up by bus sent out by Mr. Ford. Having "Ford Farms" all over the state, the rural schools benefitted not only from school childrens' gardens, but in medical care -- a bus coming out to the community, as to others, to pick up children who were taken to the Ford Hospital for "shots", vitamins, eye care and so on. Among the schools so benefitting were Rawsonville, Willow Run; Scotch Settlement, Brownville, McGuffey, Town Hall, Old Stone Pennington, Centennial Mills School, and Green Lane Academy. In 1934 to 1935, the first "Herald" was issued to the students of Rawsonville,—beautifully bound, slick paper books, containing the doings of the schools, written by the students, themselves--with articles on historical or biographical subjects, such as "Commemorating the Works of Edison".

At that time, A. A. Susterka was one of the school directors. and visited Rawsonville School often, showing the children how to make bird houses, how to wire small lamps, - making articles out of wood, tin and other materials. Mr. Susterka had moved to the Rawsonville area in 1915. -- others who followed were Mr. Kuhn, and Otto Bitnar. The present swimming site, Susterka Lake, was a mill, run by Mr. Susterka, who is the father of Ypsilanti's Police Chief, Emil Susterka.

In one account of Rawsonville's doings, a student had this to say "Among the various ways of spelling Ypsilanti, found in the post office through the years, were these: W. Y. Pslanty; Hippslylanty; Isycplantia; Wyhorlanter; Ipples Landing; Ypssillanti; and Whipcalentia;"

It was in 1934, in this first "Herald" that Rawsonville School had noted: "we have nine pupils in our school, including two new ones." The summer of 1935 Lois Arlene Corkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Corkins was the only eighth grade graduate of the school. In fall of that year, 1935, a student wrote: "we now have an enrollment of sixteen pupils -- this is the most in ten years"...

Hear Explorer

In February, 1936, the Rawsonville pupils were guests at Willow Run to hear a talk by an explorer who was a companion of Byrd's on his adventure to the South Pole. In the fall of that year, the children were enjoying a one-hour dancing class every Friday, instructed by an expert of old-time dancing, master, Mr. Lovett, sent out by Mr. Ford. Mr. Lovett also helped instruct shop work at Willow Run School, which was attended by several Rawsonville boy students.

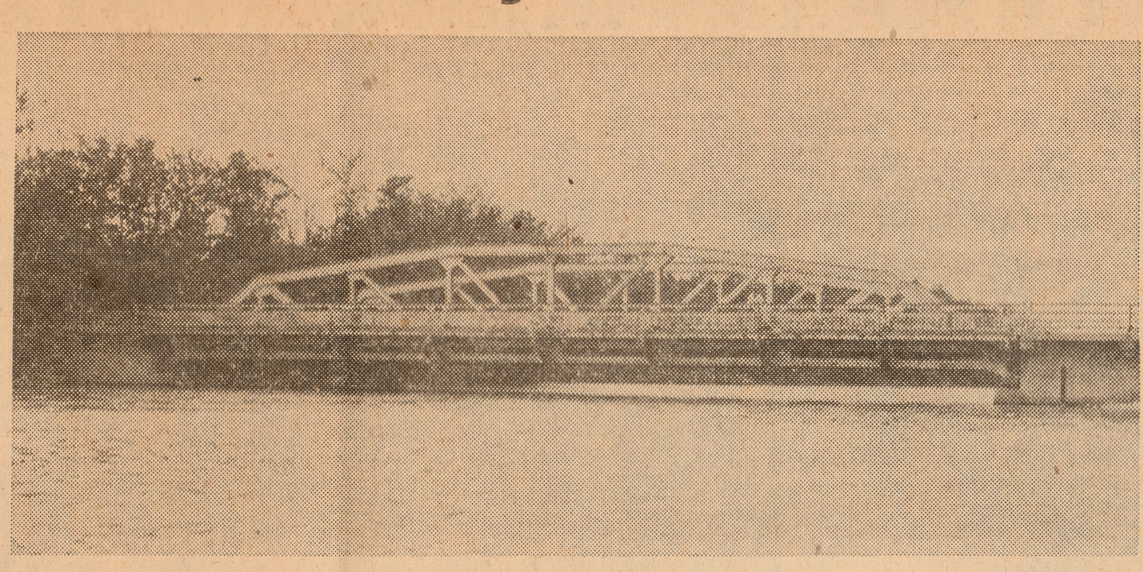
Early in 1938, attendance at Rawsonville had swelled to 47, with possibly four or five added before summer months.

In October 1938, there were enrolled in the little red brick schoolhouse in the valley, 54 students --- "the largest we have had" (however, they meant—"the largest in recent times,—for there were well over 100 enrolled in the old days, when the school was new).

By this time, it was apparent that the one-room school which had been doing yeoman duty since 1860. was in poor condition, and with growing attendance due to the gradual moving in of families whose men were working on the Bomber plant of the Ford Motor Company, needed to be replaced. So early in the 1940's, the present school was built at the top of Snow Street hill. They continued to use the old school for the older grades, for a while. Then it stood idle for some months. With the growing community, the mothers felt the need of a Sunday School for their children, and obtained permission to use the old school for this purpose. Visiting preachers led services, with sometimes no more than one or two couples in the congregation. But gradually, the Sunday School itself grew so much that it was too large for the building. Besides, its condition wasn't improving with age. And in 1945, the men of the church with the assistance of the pastor, started work on the present church,—Rawsonville's Community church and Sunday School itself grew so much the old school stood idle again, until the school board sold it.

Now new life is again flowing to the old village. This time new homes are mushrooming throughout the area but mostly on the hill, leaving the lovely valley with its beauty of yesteryear carefully preserved by families who have known and appreciated its rich history.

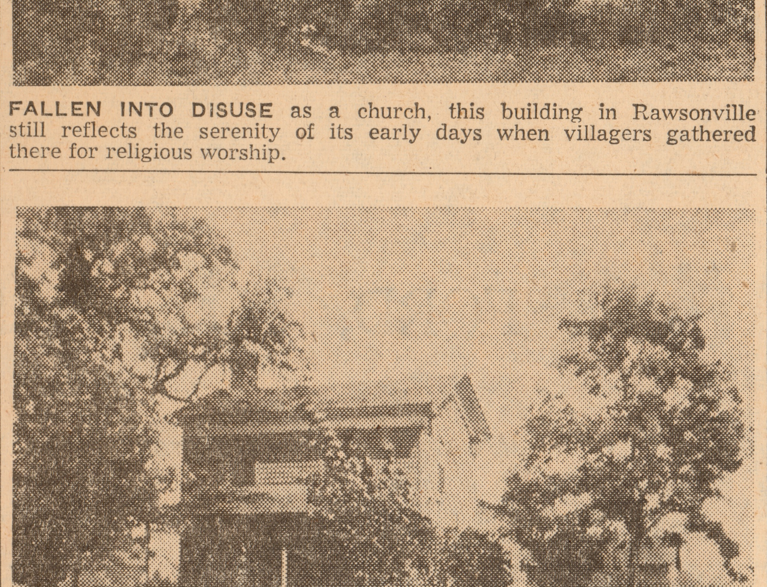
Modern Bridge at Rawsonville



REPLACING THE OLD High Bridge at Rawsonville swept away by flood, is this modern span constructed to withstand modern conditions. From its sides can be seen beautiful views of Edison Lake formed by damming the Huron River to create electric power. The lake extends to Belleville.

Serenity of Age

FALLEN INTO DISUSE as a church, this building in Rawsonville still reflects the serenity of its early days when villagers gathered there for religious worship.



THIS HOUSE, no longer standing, was the home of Charles Rohn, a pioneer wagon-maker, of Rawsonville.

Mrs. John Dixon Has Mementoes

Among the present inhabitants of Rawsonville is Mrs. John Dixon, who retains early mementoes of the Rawsons, Addie Rawson, Fifield, was born in the village in 1856 and was married the same year the new Methodist church was dedicated, probably 1879. She made her home in the white clapboard house in which her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rawson moved when she was a baby. Near this house were two other residences, one owned by Charles Rohn, a wagon maker, which was finally used by Mr. Fifield as a slaughter house and the other belonged to a French trapper by the name of Dominic Moscow. Mr. Fifield had a handmade axe which belonged to this French trapper about 125 years ago. Mrs. Addie Rawson Fifield enjoyed a rocking chair which came by oxteam from Walworth county, New York state. Mrs. Dixon has the chair, as well as some silver spoons which also came with the Rawsons.

Amariah Rawson, with his family now lie in the little cemetery bounded by the Believille Lake and the Expressway.

HOT AND COLD

PHILADELPHIA— AP — Philadelphians blinked when they saw this double feature announcement on the marquee of the Leader Theater:

HELL BELOW ZERO
HEAT WAVE
AIR CONDITIONED

Rawsonville Teacher in 1875

MISS ELOISE BRADSHAW

You Can Still Have Fun at Eighty, Says Nonagenarian

* * *

"You don't want to live to be in your nineties. You can still have lots of fun in your eighties, but you're a little too old in your nineties," says Miss Eloise Bradshaw, with a twinkle in her eye.

Miss Bradshaw has ample background for that opinion because she is now 98 years old. She was born on July 12, 1856.

She has viewed many changes in that time. The most vivid change in her mind is the "evolution" of women. She can recall the beginnings of the time when women left their homes to obtain jobs. At first, that was unheard of, but now it is taken for granted, she observes. "It shouldn't be that way," she says. She blames the increase in the divorce rate and other signs of broken homes on the fact that the housewives won't stay at home.

Miss Bradshaw has dedicated the greater part of her past life to the world of education. She started teaching at the tender age of 17 while attending Normal College here.

One of her earlier teaching jobs was at Rawsonville during the summer of 1875. She can remember the school as a one-room frame structure typical of the rural district buildings. To obliterate the starkness of the place, she added a touch of beauty by planting a flower bed in the school yard.

She had 30 students and "I never whipped one of them," she boasts.

She acquired the job through Samuel Fletcher who, upon hiring her, said she looked "awfully young," but decided she would do.

The faithful slate was the primary instrument of learning in those days, she recalls, adding they caused a constant clatter as children banged them on their desks while working. She says the finest invention of the day was that of wrappings on the rim of the slate in leather or cloth. "That cut down the noise considerably," she laughed.

Later, for one year, she taught in a "model" school located about a mile and a half north of Rawsonville.

Meanwhile, she attended classes at the old Normal School, which she remembers as having only one building located in the area of the present campus. The Normal News, the college newspaper, was in existance then, she said, and she served as an editor on the staff.

A large part of her college training was received at Chicago University. She taught school in the Chicago suburbs, while attending the University.

She said her favorite teacher at the Normal School was Miss Mary Rice, an English teacher. Miss Bradshaw wrote some poetry while teaching at Rawsonville. When she showed her poems to Miss Rice, the teacher complimented her highly for the work. Miss Bradshaw laughed as she said "that's why I liked her."

She also taught in Manistique and out west for several years. When the depression came, however, teachers' wages were decreased. "This made me mad," she chuckled, "so I quit" and returned to Michigan State Normal College for further work.

She returned to teaching, however, and retired in 1935 after working in Detroit schools.

After she retired she came to Ypsilanti to reside at 5 W. Ainsworth, her present home.

Nine Pages Sufficient For Telephone Lists in 1920

* * *

All the telephones in Ypsilanti were contained within nine short pages in a 1920 edition of the telephone directory. A total of 1971 residents were telephone users then.

David Henderson, local manager of the Michigan Bell Telephone office, found a July, 1920 directory among his files.

The telephone was apparently still a somewhat baffling apparatus to residents here judging by the multitude of warnings and instructions contained in the book.

The company hopefully offers the advice "Do Not Get Excited," when calling the fire department and "Keep Cool" when calling the police.

Rules and regulations include "Keep the receiver to your ear until you get a response" or "Farm subscribers will please ring off when conversation is finished."

A lengthy warning planned apparently to belie some rumor is "Subscribers are requested not to leave the receiver off the hook during lightning storms, as it only results in interrupting the service by causing a permanent signal in the office, making it necessary to cut out the line. This may prevent getting a prompt reply when the telephone is again restored and service wanted. It does not offer any additional protection."

The directory covered all of Washtenaw County within only 47 pages. Added to these were 24 pages in the classified directory.

Ypsilanti Daily Press offices at that time were located at 101 N. Washington St., just one block from the present home. All the community news and other Press business required just one phone then, 470. That number is only one of several leading to the Press switchboard today.

Nine of the first subscribers were listed. Number one was not included in the list apparently because it had been discontinued from use at that time, according to Mr. Henderson. He stated the number is in use today, however.

Telephone number two was listed for Frank Smith. Grover McDougall held three; while line four was listed for the H. R. Scovill residence. Max Brothers had five while the P. L. Crouse electric shop was listed as six. Ypsilanti Dairy Association had seven and the city water plant had eight, a number still used there. M. C. Hawkins, plumber, was listed on nine and W. H. Sweet and sons on 10.

A. T. Baker was manager of the telephone company then known as Michigan State Telephone Company, Bell System of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Judging by the directory listings, street addresses were apparently rare at that time. One residence, for example, that of John Hamilton, was listed as "Congress Street near limits." Addresses of those outside the city limits were usually listed as "farm, Ypsilanti township" or "farm, Augusta township." If a visitor did not know where the farm was located he could find it simply by asking. Washtenaw Country Club had the address "W. Electric Line."

Some of the titles revealed signs of the changing times. One of these was the L. G. Miller Taxi and Horse Livery, 15 S. Washington. Similar to that was the E. R. Schill tire and harness repair shop at 209 Michigan.

Much change and progress in the city could be seen in comparing lists of the old directory with the one used today.

Justice of the Peace was M. B. Stadtmiller, who presided in court at city hall as Municipal Court Judge Edward Deake does today.

City hall also contained the "marshal's office."

The telephone company business office was in the First National Bank building, while the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 167 was on the third floor of the Savings Bank.

The D. J. and C. Railway waiting room was at 13 N. Washington, while the railroad assistant superintendent had quarters on East Michigan Ave.

Michigan State Normal College did not have a central switchboard as now. Each office had individual number.

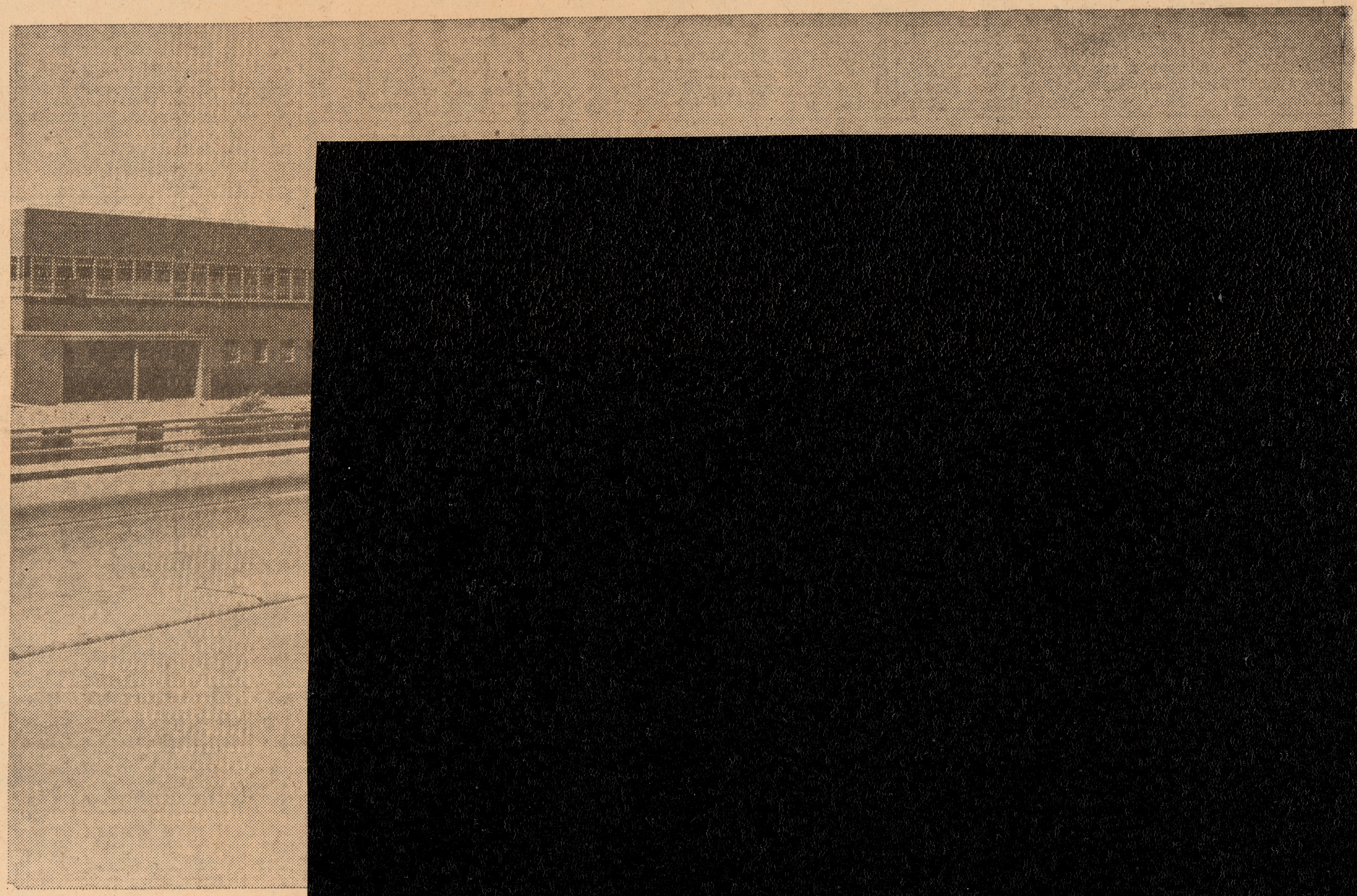
The Ypsilanti Gas office was located at 27 N. Washington and the city gas works at 606 N. Huron. The local gas supply is now handled by Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.

Only phone found for city schools was under "public schools". It was 103, the same as that used in the superintendent's office today.

Other towns included in the directory were Ann Arbor, Belleville (which required only two pages), Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Milan, Whitmore Lake, Willis (which took only one page) and Worden.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY... and ... YPSILANTI DAILY PRESS

GOOD NEIGHBORS FOR OVER 22 YEARS



We Proudly Salute The Ypsilanti Daily Press On This Significant Anniversary!

As one good neighbor to another, Ford Motor Company congratulates the Ypsilanti Daily Press on its first 50 years of service to this community. Our two firms have enjoyed the most cordial relations possible during Ford's 22 years of citizenship in Ypsilanti.

50th
The YPSILANTI PRESS
Anniversary
"FOSTERING YPSILANTI PROGRESS THROUGH A HALF CENTURY"
1904 - 1954

FORD, TOO, HAS

We at Ford also are proud of our g
the city of Ypsilanti. The picture a
the original Ford Ypsilanti plant, whi
ing starters and generators as part o
Industry Program. The original pla
and women and obtained power fron
at Rawsonville.

Today a greatly expanded Ypsilant
persons and serves as headquarter

FORD MOTOR

PARTS and EQUIPMENT MA

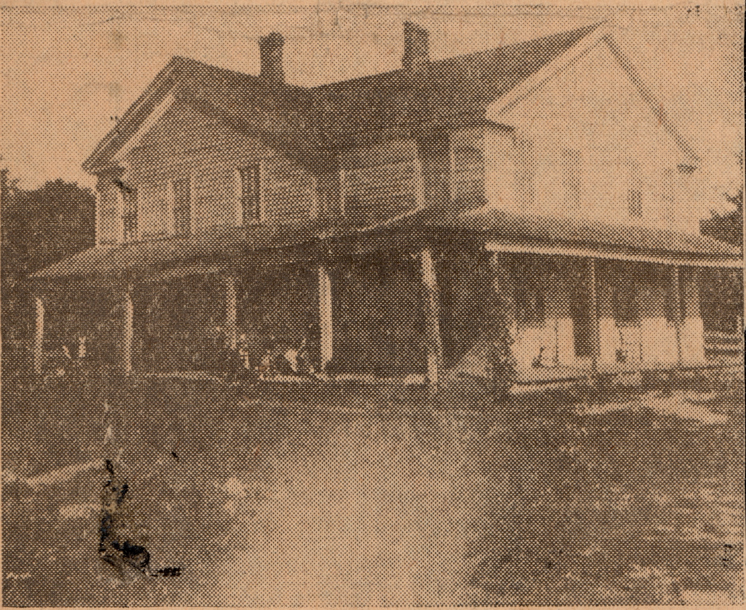
Quiet Rawsonville Valley Appeals to Three Sisters

The present owners of the old Rawsonville Tavern, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bennett are considered old settlers in the village of Rawsonville. Mrs. Bennett, together with her two sisters, Mrs. Beatrice Mosely and Mrs. Edna Maris, both retired school teachers, still live in the quiet hills, near the Huron river, where life is peaceful, even if the jet planes often fly low.

Their father, Edwin Barlow, was born October 22, 1849, near Belleville and educated in a "select" (not public) school. Mrs. Hattie Kelsey Crittenden, a Quakeress, was an early teacher. The family moved into Rawsonville and he attended the public school there. Enrollment was about 150. Skating on the river was a winter pleasure. His skates were made like the Indians, of hard wood cut in wedge shape. There were also writing and singing schools in those days. The late Professor Frederick H. Pease often conducted the song fests. Taffy pulling and dancing in the Good Templar Hall were also enjoyed. Sunday School was conducted by William Clark, owner of the mill. Work in those days for a young man consisted of farming, or he could earn $2.00 a day pulling beans, husking corn or spinning in the woolen mills.

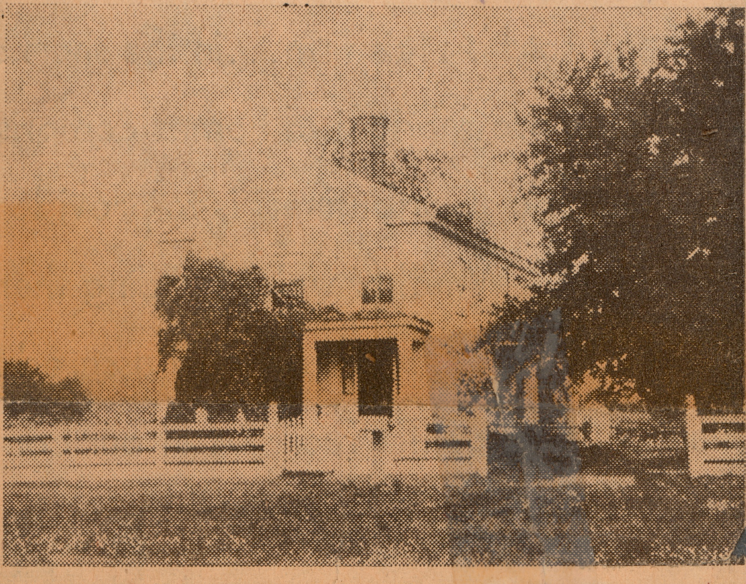
Edwin Barlow was, at one time, Postmaster in the general store and owner of the grist mill. His father operated the general store too and was also Postmaster and Justice of the Peace.

His home, remodeled, still stands and is now occupied by two of his daughters.

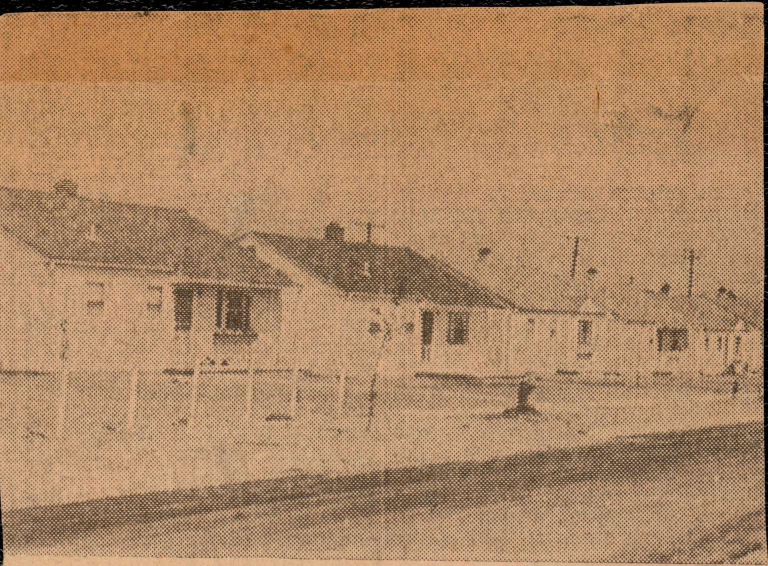


MR. AND MRS. CLARENCE BENNETT'S home in Rawsonville, is the old, original Tavern. It has been restored, but it still stands at the landing where travelers coming up the broad Huron river would embark. The main room was used as a gathering place for the pioneers and the bar, which once graced the room is now stored. It is a huge thing, made of black walnut. The room now is like a museum, with many fine pieces of antique furniture and dishes. In fact, the whole house is charming with much authentic furniture and furnishings. The second floor was used for a ball room and several years ago, Henry Ford, who believed in reviving the customs of an earlier era, restored this room and arranged to have the young people of the community taught the square dancing that he loved. This is an old print made before the tavern was restored.

Oct. 30 1954.



THIS IS THE Harry B. Mosely house in Rawsonville. It is one of the original houses of the village and looked like this until it was remodeled some time ago. There are a few of the houses still standing which were built about the time Amariah Rawson and a few of his friends started a village around the old tavern, back in 1824-25.



art of thirty-two 3 bedroom homes completed on Ke

Frank O. Jackson

We point with pride to the fact that over
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